



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2026 Legislative Proposal

HOUSE BILL 5044

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT VACCINE STANDARDS

The Current Situation

State statutes often rely on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), linking these recommendations to state laws related to vaccine administration in the state. Historically, ACIP and the CDC have used peer reviewed research and evidence-based science to set these recommendations, so having state law rely on ACIP has never been an issue. In recent months, the federal administration, ACIP, and the CDC are no longer making decisions based on research or proven evidence. This is not how we make public health decisions in Connecticut. Here, we trust science, and we need to ensure we have that ability in our state laws, especially as it comes to protecting our community from preventable diseases.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Strengthen the Department of Public Health's (DPH) authority to set the standard of care for adult, children, and infant immunizations. The vaccine standard of care for infants and children will be based on proven scientific evidence and in consideration of recommendations coming out of ACIP, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Protect Connecticut's ability to purchase childhood vaccines, allowing other means of procurement should purchase through the CDC is no longer available. Additionally, the DPH Commissioner will be granted the authority to purchase vaccines for adults, within available appropriations, allowing the



State to initiate an adult vaccine pilot to ensure our underinsured or uninsured populations have access to the flu vaccine.

Require all state regulated individual and group plans to cover vaccines that are included in the standard of care, established by DPH. Additionally, pharmacists will be permitted to administer vaccines, consistent with the standard of care.

Allow the DPH Commissioner, or their designee, to issue a standing order for vaccine or other medical intervention in the case of a public health emergency. This will help expedite access to vaccinations when rapid response is critical and a provider order is required.